Infrastructure projects will have to be funded by State Governments out of their own resources. All State Governments were informed accordingly in February, 2005. However, the Planning Commission has indicated that funds to the extent of committed liabilities will be provided for ongoing approved Sports Infrastructure projects during the remaining period of the Ninth Plan only.

The proposal for the construction of a Swimming Pool at the Nehru Stadium, Shimoga (Karnataka) was received in the Ministry but clarifications had been sought on the proposal. As no liabilities had been committed by Government of India till 31.3.2005, the proposal has not been pursued for assistance.

National Sports Development Fund

3639. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have created any National Sports Development Fund for promotion of sports and games in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any policy for spotting talented sportspersons in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was created by the Government in 1998 with the aim of promoting sports in general and specific sports disciplines & individual sportspersons in particular for achieving excellence at the national and international level. The Fund envisages mobilizing financial resources from statutory bodies created under the Act of Parliament or the State Legislatures, the United Nations and its associated bodies, other International Organizations, private and public corporate sectors, trusts, societies and individuals. There is a provision for matching contributions from the Government. The contributions received for the Fund have the facility of 100% tax exemption.

(c) and (d) Under the scheme of 'Incentives for Promotion of Sports Activities' of this Ministry, Rural Sports Programme is one of the components under which rural sports competitions/tournaments are organized at Block, District, State and National levels. Block level Tournaments are to be funded by the State Govt./UT Administration. However, NGOs including Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathana are also provided assistance for holding local rural tournaments at district level. The Government provides grants to the State Governments through the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for organizing District, State and National level tournaments. District level tournaments are organized by State Governments and State level tournaments are organized by SAI in association with the State/UT. National level tournaments are organized by SAI in various States by rotation.

Funds for Welfare of Youth

3640. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated for the welfare of youth to excel in different spheres in the last five years;

(b) whether such allocations have been spent during the same period; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) The details of funds allocated and spent under various schemes of the Ministry in the last five years are given at Statement (*See* below).

(c) Funds allocated during the respective years in most of the schemes were utilized almost fully. However, in a few schemes, funds could not be utilized fully owing to non-receipt of viable and complete proposals from the grantee institutions/organizations.